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# Abraham Lincoln's Contemporaries

Stephen A. Douglas  
Portraits

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

# THE H. LIEBER COMPANY

ESTABLISHED 1854

CAMERAS  
PHOTOGRAPHIC SUPPLIES  
ART GALLERIES  
ARTISTS' AND ENGINEERS' MATERIALS

BLUE PRINTS  
PHOTOSTATS  
PHOTO FINISHING } 614 E. WASHINGTON STREET

BRANCH STORES } 4184 COLLEGE AVE.  
11 S. RITTER

24 WEST WASHINGTON STREET  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

June 14, 1941.

Lincoln National Life Foundation,  
Fort Wayne,  
Indiana.

Attention: Mr. M. A. Cook.

Gentlemen:

Replying to your letter of June 13th with reference to the photograph of STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS, it may be that you did not receive the letter that was enclosed with the photograph, but we recently secured the original painting of STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS and sent you the photograph of this painting, thinking perhaps you might be interested in the original painting and if so we would find a way to get the painting into your hands.

If you are not interested would you be good enough to return the photograph to The H. Lieber Company, 24 West Washington Street, Indianapolis?

Yours very truly,

THE H. LIEBER COMPANY

*Walter Hickman*

WH:EL

*Douglas Painting*

June 18, 1941

The H. Lieber Company  
24 West Washington St.  
Indianapolis, Indiana

Gentlemen:

Thank you very much for calling to our attention the Stephen A. Douglas painting. We have confined ourselves exclusively to the collection of rare pictures to the one character, Abraham Lincoln. Not even Stephen A. Douglas has been able to break into our rather exclusive collection of Lincolniana. Thank you nevertheless for making the availability of this portrait.

Very truly yours,

LAW:WM

Director



H. E. Barker, Esq.  
1653 S. Gramercy Place  
Los Angeles, Calif.

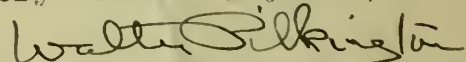
Dear Mr. Barker:

We are enclosing a cutting from the May issue of American Notes & Queries -- a query submitted by Newton Arvin and one which has, as yet, received no satisfactory answer.

Mr. George Fort Milton tells us he is, at present, unable to get at any material in his files that would be the least bit helpful. His recollection, however, is that you are related to Douglas and that the supposed daguerreotype which you sent him came to you through family sources. My recollection further, he says, is that "in sending it, he gave me the chain of in-herents by which it came through his hands."

Your comments would, of course, be of considerable interest, not only to the original inquirer, but to our readers in general. Contributors may, if they prefer, use initials rather than signatures.

Very sincerely yours,

  
Walter Pilkington

» PORTRAIT OF STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS. Facing page 20 of George Fort Milton's *The Eve of Conflict*, Boston, 1934, there is a picture of a youth entitled, "Douglas [Stephen A.] Before He Went West." According to the table of "Illustrations," this picture is "from a copy of an old daguerreotype sent to the author by H. E. Barker, Los Angeles." As Douglas left New York State for the West in 1832, and as daguerreotypes were not introduced into this country until the end of that decade, the photograph cannot be of the person in question. Is it taken from a daguerreotype, then, or is it a photograph of someone else?

DOUGLAS  
CAFE AND COFFEE SHOP

GARAGE IN CONNECTION

QUINN'S JESTS.

250 ROOMS  
RATES 1.25 TO 4.00



# LELAND

1653 S. Gramercy Place.

Hotel

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

EDWARD S. PERRY, MGR

Aug. 8, 1941

Walter Pilkinton,  
Am. Notes & Queries  
7 W. 44th St., N.Y.C.

Dear Sir:

Replying to your recent letter regarding the Douglas portrait used by George Fort Milton in his book "The Eve of Conflict," I disclaim responsibility for the title there given: "Douglas Before He Went West."

Here is the story of the picture:

About twenty-five years ago, while in the Book & Art business in Springfield, Ills. I had occasion to go to Chicago, and while there I called on Thurber's Art Store where they were having a special clearing sale of prints, among which I found this portrait of Douglas. I asked the salesman to explain the picture as I had never before seen so early a portrait of Douglas.

He told me that some time back an old lady had brought in a daguerreotype for the purpose of having repairs made on the case, the hinge of which was broken, and had stated that it was a likeness of Douglas as a young man. Their interest was excited to the extent that they had it copied in enlarged size, (11 X 14 inches) and these were "touched-up" with India ink. One copy was made 14 X 17 inches but of the smaller size twelve copies were made. Only one had been disposed of and I purchased all the others. These I offered at my store as portraits of "young Douglas, from an old daguerreotype" - a title that does not conflict with the facts at any point.

There is no question in my mind as to its identity, and I account for any change in likeness to the "touching-up" process by the artist, but as for being made "Before He Went West" - that I hold to be a literary license to which I cannot, in view of the facts, subscribe.

Sincerely,



August 14, 1941

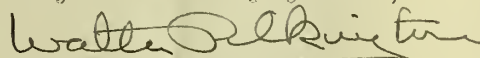
H. E. Barker, Esq.  
1653 S. Gramercy Place  
Los Angeles, Calif.

Dear Mr. Barker:

Thank you for your very interesting note on the Douglas portrait. It will go into an early issue of AN&Q -- probably the September -- but in any event we shall send you a copy.

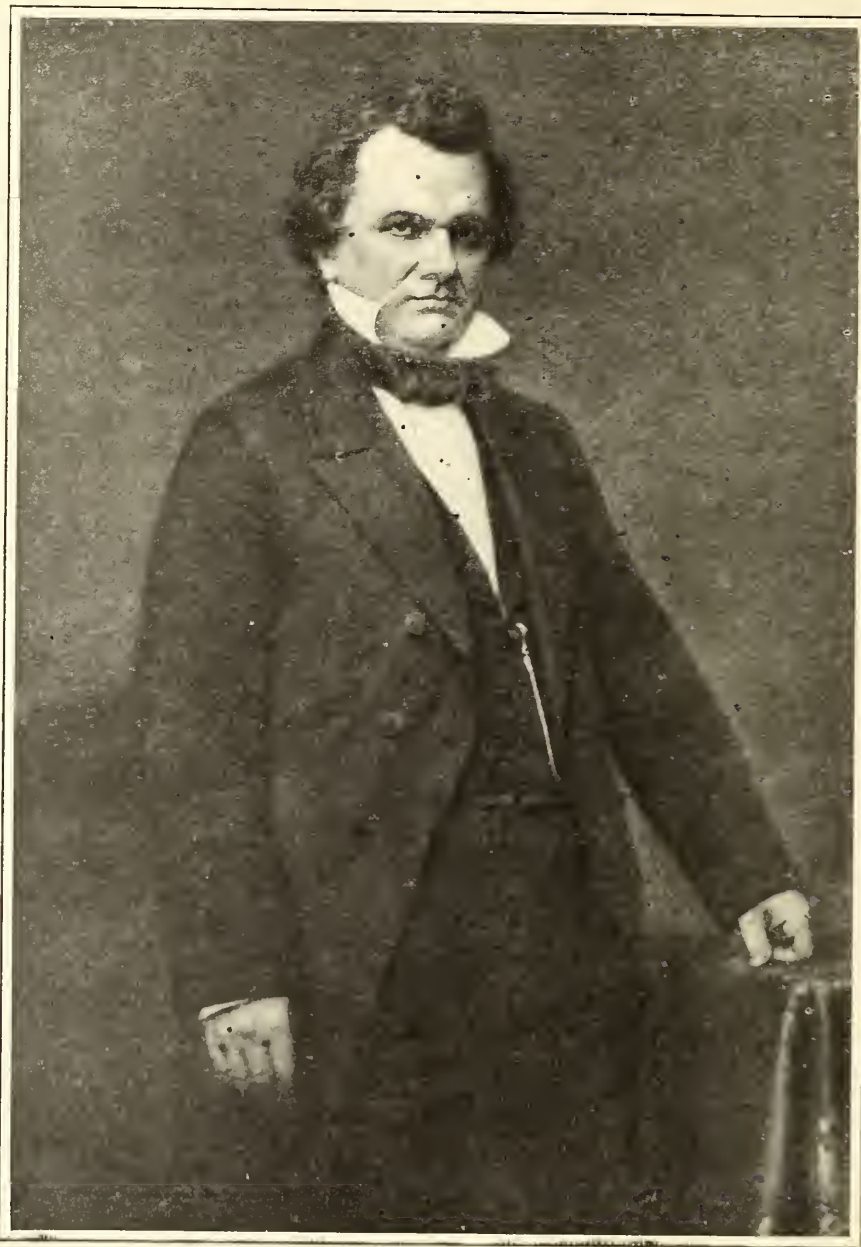
And since you have given us your consent we shall run your name beneath it.

Very sincerely yours,



Walter Pilkington  
Editor

Douglass, Stephen A.



PHOTOGRAPH OF STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS TAKEN DURING HIS DEBATES WITH LINCOLN IN 1858

Lincoln was now 49 years of age; Douglas was 45 years—This negative was taken after Douglas defeated Lincoln for the United States Senate, which was followed two years later by Lincoln's defeat of Douglas for President of United States

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Original in the Collection of American Celebrities—Owned  
by Mr. L. C. Handy of Washington, D. C.





STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS IN 1858.

From a photograph by F. Anthony, New York; loaned by J. McCan Davis



## HISTORICAL NOTES

### AN UNUSUAL PORTRAIT OF STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS

In Illinois the face of Stephen A. Douglas is almost as well known as Abraham Lincoln's. An extremely short, deep-chested man, he is always depicted with a smooth-shaven face. The *Journal* editors were surprised to find in *Harper's Weekly* for December 26, 1857, a picture of the Little Giant with a beard. Accompanying the portrait in *Harper's* is the following:

The public will recognize the portrait given on this page; few Americans are ignorant of the features of Stephen A. Douglas. Certainly no statesman in this country stands so prominently before the public at the present time as the famous Senator from Illinois.

A notation on the picture states that it is from a photograph by Whitehurst, Washington, D. C.

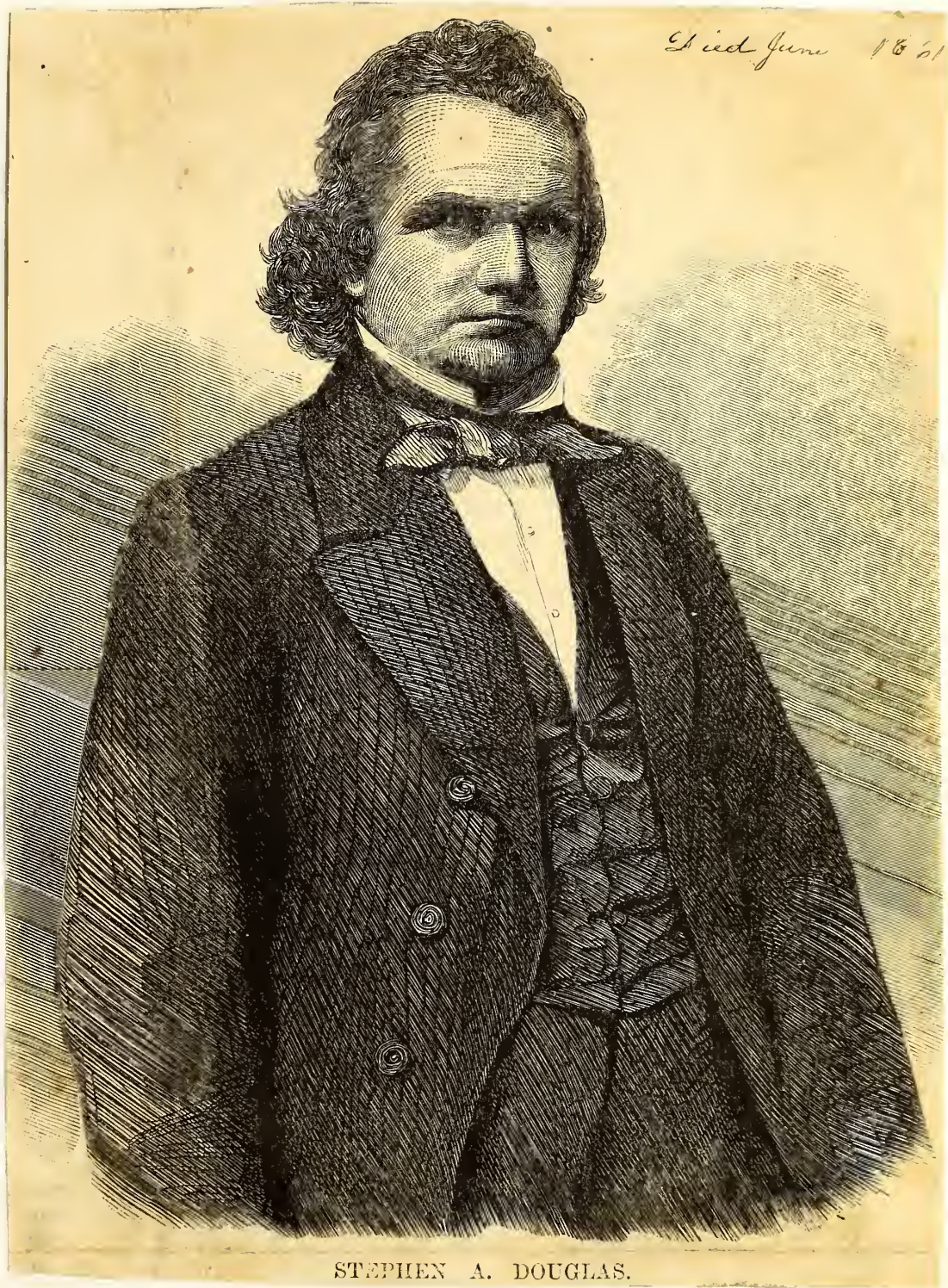
### A NOTE ON THE EARLY TRAVELS OF JOHN JAMES AUDUBON IN SOUTHERN ILLINOIS

The travels of John James Audubon have long been of interest to the people of America, and a revival of that interest has taken place since the republication, at popular prices, of his *Birds Of America*.<sup>1</sup> His first travels in southern Illinois are of special interest to those persons intimately acquainted with the territory of Illinois known as Egypt, which, in its long and illustrious history, has been the veritable crossroads of America.

In 1808, Audubon, with a friend, Ferdinand Rozier, a young Frenchman who had returned with him from France, had set up a mercantile business in Louisville, Kentucky. Finding competition unduly keen, they removed to Henderson, Kentucky. The competition in that city was extremely keen also, and the two partners resolved to move their goods and business to Ste. Genevieve, on the Mississippi River. Accordingly, in December of 1810, the two partners loaded their goods, consisting of "three hundred barrels of whiskey, sundry goods, and powder on a keel boat" and started down the Ohio River to the Mississippi, which they

<sup>1</sup> Several editions of this celebrated work have been issued within recent years.





STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS.



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STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS





Stephen A. Douglas  
B. Cooley





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